


New-March 4th '51

Dear Lizzy, I am afraid without meaning it, I told some traveller's stories in my last. But I didn't mean to, only I never can remember figures! Well, they say those wedges of gold in the Bank vaults were only 200 £'s each, & the bags in the treasury contained only 1,000 £ each. - So: I have amended my offences to the best of my abilities -

And now for the Queen's News - You enter through a little court-yard, with a handsome iron railing & gates, & porter's lodge on one side, & And porter consequential enough to be my Lord Mayor; & a flunky in long, light, drab ^{great} coat with felt buttons & gold band on his coat, ushers you through a large, handsome, arched gate way leading into a courtyard paved, & surrounded by grave looking buildings; you enter a door on one side, & see "Stable No. 1, & are handed over to a groom who bids you enter, & announces, "Prince Albert's riding 'orses." - These stables are not a common stable, dark & with rough walls - No, it is a long hall, the walls nicely plastered & colored, & lighted on one side by windows high up - The opposite side has recesses arched, & between each recess wooden partitions, dividing off the stalls, nicely painted. - Each horse's name is painted on a label over the recess; & if the horse were out, his blanket & halter were neatly folded & laid aside - The recess holds the crib & manger - A wide walk was neatly paved with brick against the side next the windows, & the rest ^{the floor of the} stalls were covered with clean straw - The horses were fastened - by halters running through a ring & a weight at the lower end - It is quite a palace for horses, you may well imagine! They were beautiful creatures many of them, & in such high keeping & beautiful order! - Many were singed, which seems to be a most general custom here for saddle horses - They tell me it is done by smearing sulphur over a horse & then lighting it - But I must say it sounds rather Baron Munchausen - I should think there were from 10 to 20 horses in the saddle horse stables - ^{"how many stables I don't remember"} Presently came ponies for the royal children - A pretty little creature the Prince of Wales rides, one larger for the Princess Royal, one in training for her still larger, &c - But my particular admiration was one which the latter

introduced as a general favorite, & which he said always went with them wherever they went; it was a sort of mouse colored marked with white, & seemed very good-natured. - Then came the Queen's saddle horses, at the very least two stables full - And among them an old white one she used to ride as Princess. Then came carriage horses of various sorts, & I noticed that in naming a pair as they stood side by side, ~~the~~ names began with the same letter; for instance, Cancer & Dreamer, &c. &c. Among the saddle horses was an Arab, a present from the Imam of Muscat - It was a small horse & I did not especially admire it, for it was a light grey, almost white, & I have rather a prejudice against white horses; I like a handsome bay, or the beautiful brown they have here so much, it is neither so red or chestnut, much better. - We saw some superb black ones - Some of the horses were very good-natured & we could go into the stalls & pat them; others again seemed to be watching a chance to give us a good kick, & we were warned to be careful & not go too near. - Some of the stables for carriage horses were larger & double, having stalls running down each side; & of this fashion was the last stable we were ushered into, where were the cream-colored horses & the blacks for state occasions. The creams were beautiful creatures - Not the muddy color we sometimes see called cream at home; but with coats so soft & delicate they looked like a beautiful buff satin, & such superb manes & tails, long & silky; the mane of one was at least a foot long! - And they had such peculiar eyes! But they seemed unusually docile & gentle, liking to be caressed like a kitten. - The horses struck me as very young, they pointed out blacks 1 pair, one to the other 5; & one beautiful creature they were just breaking in, only 3. - How much I thought of you, father, & longed you were there! - You would enjoy seeing the beautiful creatures - One thing struck me, & that was the enormous haunches, in the saddle-horses they considered. - Especially good - At least so it struck me. - There are 12 cream-colored horses, & I noticed that stable was lighted with gas. (I did not notice the others) and a man sleeps in it every night. - Then we

were taken round into another yard, where they ^{do not} were marked "boxes," & seemed more like little common stables for say two horses. In one we were shown the Shetland ponies, four dear little creatures! I am sure the smallest was not larger than Bask, & they seemed as playful as dogs; & more than half mane & tail. - Then we were taken to see the state harnesses, red morocco & gilt for the creams, & black & gilt for the blacks; heavy, ugly things! Here were hanging the little, nice bridles for the ponies, & underneath them the panniers in which the younger children sometimes "take their pony exercise" - They are made like wicker low baskets with red cushions. - We were not shown the Queen's iron carriages, only an ornamented great state ^{one} like those we little vehicle for the babies - A little four-wheeled chair, perfect in every respect, & lined with dark blue heavy velvet, & adapted to the smallest Shetland pony, I should think - I should like to have carried that off! - We wound up with the State Carriage used for Coronations, Opening Parliament, & such like. - It is all gilding & painting, but I must confess a clumsy piece of antiquity, & I pity the Queen when she has to ride in it, except that the front is one great piece of glass, & that must be pleasant. - But imagine such a carriage in shape as you see in pictures of some 100 years ago, large & heavy,  this rather sort of shaped body; the panels are painted in miniature with allegorical figures in landscapes, Britannia, Neptune & his troupes; the fine arts, &c. & this I thought. The prettiest part, for some of the groups are very pretty; the rest is all carved, & gilt all over; great shields, helmets, &c. as trophies on the corners of the roof, which rises somewhat, & is surmounted by a crown in the middle. It is hung on enormously long springs; the wheels were off, but the carriage hangs quite between them; & over the back wheels are two Titans, legs stiff, blowing horns; great lusty boys! & in front the same, bulging appallingly at, great gilt cord, as if they were drawing the coach. The coachman's seat rises over them, with its old embroidered velvet hammer cloth; & his footboard is ^{an imitation of a} great Eochle shell - The inside is lined with velvet & heavily embroidered with gold, but quite tarnished & worn; for this elegant piece of furniture is of George the III's time, & in the shape of that age. - I do not know anything that looks more shabby than inside

ed gold ~~or~~ velvet - And one of the crimson silk window curtains which
was blown, was quite rapped. If I were a Queen I'd make a vow I
wouldn't put my foot in such a piteous, sore eye, old thing! I
should think she would consider ^{it} a sort of unceremonious act of
penance to ride in it, & give expiation for looking as cross as they
said she did that love day - For the vain attempts to form a po-
sition, they said had quite put her out, with all the trouble &
squabbling behind scenes, & she looked anything but sweet.
The state coach was the last thing we saw and we were allowed
to depart. It's almost impossible to do anything or visit such a place, for
as you are handed over to a different man almost every place you
enter, & your flunky waits outside to escort you to the gate in the
end, and ^{as} it is rather an uncommon sight & the royal status, you
are expected to give each one something handsome. - This kind of
pays makes a good deal of English sight seeing so trifling - But at
the bank nothing was expected; & in some places there are printed
notices requesting you not to give the attendants anything. But in
private establishments & visiting noblemen's places it is part of the
servants' perquisites. They say sometimes the servants pay for a place
for the sake of the give, that may not be true, but ^{it's} true that often
they are paid very little & expect to make it up in this way - But
I have got so used to this & a good many other things, that I scarcely
notice ~~them~~ ^{them} now, though when I first landed they were very unpleasant.
We came round by Buckingham Palace & by its new front - Of in-
describable architecture - And saw the famous gateway which a letter
in the Times the other day, has made so notorious. The letter pur-
ported to be from the Lion in the Gate, who requested to state his
pitiable case as follows - He wanted to complete the ornaments to the
gate; ordered the royal arms; the centre to be surmounted by the shield,
the side coats with the lion & unicorn. But by some blunder the lion
was, to be sure, on the right, ^{but} of the spectator, ~~but~~ ^{to the} the left of the shield!
Some herald noticed the horrible blunder, & pointed it out they were
transposed; but of course having been cut to the last other way they
now turn their tails on her Majesty as she drives out of her own palace!
The letter was capitally written, full of fire, & wound up by stating some
horrid consequences of such a shocking want of etiquette; that an Austria
Count on going to Buckingham Palace & seeing the horror, had in
trouble returned to Vienna, saying he could not remain in a country

where such manifest disrespect & such an insult were offered to
 Royalty - The lion pitilessly begs to be taken down & broken up; some-
 times come to relieve him! - When you get in front of the gate
 it is so ludicrously true you cannot help laughing - The animals
 being rampant, so manifestly turn their tails on the gate, & the
 face of the unicorn looks like such a grin of delight at the feat,
 that it is capital. - Oh, how cold & raw it was as we crossed
 the green park to Piccadilly! - As disagreeable as a genuine British
 East wind - While Dr. Gray accompanied the Wards to Regent St
 to get them an omnibus there, Cooke having bade us good bye, (he was
 to go to Paris next day,) Miss Wenslow & I refreshed ourselves with a
 bowl of soup in a confectioner's, & when Dr. Gray came back we took an
 omnibus to Ken - Poor Miss Wenslow had a very heavy cold, & was
 quite done up, & has been in the house with it ever since - And
 I felt very bad, & some threatening of face ache; so I sat in front
 of a good fire, had a tub of warm water for my feet, & went to
 bed with the babies; & consequently waked next morning quite
 bright, & teeth as comfortable as possible - Friday of course was
 busy writing - And Saturday afternoon I walked up to see how the
 Hookers were - I saw Lady Hooker for the first time, being allow-
 ed the privilege of going into her chamber for a little while -
 Miss Hooker I did not see, she still suffering from her cough; & poor
 Miss Wenslow was so hoarse she could scarcely speak - However I
 sat with her until Dr. Gray was ready to go home to dinner -
 Thursday, March 11th.

No steamer this week, & I must live without letters! You have
 all been so good & faithful in writing, that truly a week's abstinence
 is quite a trial! - However next week brings a double portion, & I
 hope Sunday will announce the steamer's arrival. -

Sunday, Dr. Gray & I walked to church to Richmond - It was a lovely
 day, so spring like! The poplars have hung out their tassels, & in some
 places in the pleasure grounds the grass was white with snow-drops,
 & the birds were so merry! - In the afternoon we had a most
 pleasant walk through the gardens, visiting the domes - The acacia
 house is very handsome now, the different acacias being in flower,
 from pale straw colour to deepest yellow, & some as large as a small tree

are covered with flowers In the heath house too beautiful heathes
are coming in flower, such superb great plants! And in the orches-
trons some of the beautiful, fantastic air-plants are coming out.
They have their showy kinds in blue green-houses here more in
May & June, the London season. But the Camellias have been in
great force & variety in the gardens.

Monday I walked to Richmond. to get some few little things.
The shop-men here are not used to our quick despatch of business,
& it seems sometimes forever before one can get what they want.
Mrs. Butler complains in her book that the Shopkeepers with
us would talk to her. I am sure it must have been from her
public character; for the Shopkeepers here seem to expect vastly
more conversation than with us. Remarking on the weather,
& bidding you always good morning when you come in & go out. I
could not go by "the Shop for the Original Maids of Honor" without
stopping for Dr. Gray's benefit, and you may be as much puzzled as
I was to know at first what it meant; whether the Maids of Honor
went there; or whether they furnished Maids of Honor, or what; I
pondered long; until it was explained, as a little cake, the recipe
said to come from Queen Elizabeth's ladies, which has been handed
down in this place from those times, & whence their name. They
are a little sort of Cheese cake & very nice. 1d. or 2cts apiece.

Richmond, you know, was a famous place in Queen Elizabeth's time,
& thence the old name for Richmond Palace one of her favorite resi-
dences. There is another queer sign on the main road as you
enter; old as I fancy, if we may judge from the form of the letters;
but underneath a small picture of an ass, is written as follows

"Excellent ass & milk I sell; & deep a stud for hire
If donkeys jammed for going well, they seldom ever lie -
One angel honor'd Balaam's ass, & stopp'd him in the way,
But Corall's troop through Richmond pass with Angels every day!"
I was much amused as I left Richmond on my way home, by the
sight of one of these interesting quadrupeds - A man came out of a pas-
sage leading one ass & another following; but the follower finding himself
in the wide, dusty road, could not resist the temptation for a roll.

& lingered behind; the man in front called to a boy to drive him on,
he advanced a few steps, & then deliberately scolded himself for a
roll; his master went on, thinking he would presently come,
but the donkey once rolling seemed to think he could not get
enough, & at last quietly laid still without offering to move;
the man looked back & stopp'd, the donkey did not stir; he
went on, that made no difference; & the last I saw the man
was waiting with one donkey, the other lying a long distance
off in the road, each evidently unwilling to exert himself -
I wonder which gained the victory, whether the man came
to the donkey or the donkey to the man!

Tuesday was again a lovely spring day & I had a charming
walk in the garden, where it seemed so warm & like. They
have some handsome birds in the little pond in front of
the palm house. Strange ducks, a pair of large geese, & a beautiful
pair of swans. One is quite one's own ideal, & comes sailing through
the water, plunging it with its white breast, with curved
neck, & wings arched over the back, in truly swan-like beauty.
Yesterday was raining, & I did not go out. For I thought it
best to be prudent - My cold ended in a turn of dyspepsia,
which is however now much better - But this winter has
shown me I am not to be quite the giant in strength I
thought last autumn. - If you expect to see the "Blue Spring"
who used to ride 20 miles on horseback in a morning, come
back & take a bath, chat all the afternoon, & dance all the
evening, you will be disappointed; for that "great woman" is
passed long ago - But if you will see a thin specimen of woman-
kind, who can walk two or three miles assiduously, eat pretty
much like other folks, can do a little visiting, but must be care-
ful of strength & avoid over-exertion, & bear salient's long now
& then white yellow & a little down turn, I do not think either
you or I can be reasonably disappointed; or feel the year's
journey quite in vain. One cannot be always coming the light.
To-day I have been to dine with the Hookers & had a very
pleasant day - Dr. was brought to the good new Tuesday evening.

that Dr. Hooker was in his return from his Eastern journey, & would
be probably home in a few weeks. Of course they are all rejoiced
at the news & I hope it will do them more good than the doctor.
Miss Hooker looks very delicate & coughs much; Lady Hooker I saw
up stairs again for a few minutes - Mr. Williams was quite bright
& Miss Beaulieu seemed much better. Should not you think she
would be glad to have Dr. Hooker get back? She & I have arranged
a little shopping excursion into London tomorrow - When we are
to boldly venture alone by ourselves, I am naturally making use of the
concessions - The Hookers are very kind to us in every way.

I must tell you a little, ~~indeed~~ Dr. Gray & I had Sunday - We
were in one of Mrs. Ponson's, when a door opened at the other
end, & supposing, as the gardens are not open to the public (and
& we have a private key,) that it was one of the gardeners, I quietly
continued my comments to Dr. Gray on the acacias. Presently a
young girl came sweeping by. She was tall & very large, with a
pale, florid face, & dressed in mourning; but with such a grand-
iloquent air, that Dr. Gray could not resist a little comment on its
magnificence as she passed, she was followed by a shorter woman
with dark eyes, who had also a put on air of indifference - We
quietly continued our circuit; & the young lady after talking in a
loud voice, began to sing in a hoarse style, & cut some flowers; the
manner was so coarse that Dr. Gray & I were both quite surprised,
& he thought it some gardener's daughter. On describing her at the
Hooker's today, who do you think they said it was? Guess! Some
actress? no - some countess? a little higher - The Princess Mary of
Cambridge, the uncivilized republican! &c. - that has been my
nearest approach to loyalty! - And I feel inclined to conclude
in a favorite proverb of Dr. Gray's, as he quotes it from the mouth
of a ^{Southern} country damsel, "So much freedom breeds contempt!" It is
not the silken gown or the title makes the lady.

I see - and better this evening as I expect to go into London tomorrow
morn'g - Hugs & hugs of love all round

From your ever loving sister,
Jane -
Lizzie! What do you think the English
principally see in me? Mrs. Jones, my husband, & my big mouth!
Alas & alas for the representative of our country women as France said!